

February 7, 2023

Committee on Children

SB 929, An Act Expanding School Meal Programs to Provide Free School Meals to All Students

Senator Maher, Representative Linehan, and members of the Committee on Children, my name is Nancy Presnick and I am a Pediatrician and CT Native. I am writing today to speak in support of SB 929 An Act Expanding School Meal Programs to Provide Free School Meals to All Students.

I support this legislation because of significant evidence to the benefits of programs such as this. Research tells us that when schools provide no-cost meals there is less absenteeism, children are able to focus more, and feel safer in the cafeteria. We know that children who are fed learn better, providing free school meals creates the potential for greater academic success. Provided school lunches also reduce burden on families and stress for children and parents. As a local pediatrician, I speak often with families who have difficulty keeping food at home let alone having healthy choices. School lunches also give the opportunity to ensure nutritional food for all children, at a time when childhood obesity continues to rise. I urge our legislature to pass this bill, and appreciate the opportunity to write in support.